

at the head of a convoy of provisions and munitions of war, which her panic-stricken enemies dared not attack.

5. A few days later, in an attack on the English intrenchments, she rushed, armed only with her standard, toward them, seized the first ladder, and planted her colors on the ramparts. An arrow struck her in the shoulder, and she fell to the ground: the English raised a shout of triumph, and the French fell back discouraged.

6. Joan, perceiving that victory was about to turn in favor of the enemy, tore, with her own hand, the arrow from her deep wound, sprang from the ground, rallied her soldiers, and penetrated with them into the English intrenchments.

7. "Thus," says an historian, "that famous siege, which had lasted seven month—during which all the efforts of the chivalry of France had only succeeded in repelling a few assaults—was raised, in a few hours, by the courage of a heroine of seventeen. A week after the arrival of Joan of Arc, the enemy had fled from the walls of the delivered city."

8. Other successes followed this. Wherever Joan presented herself, the enemy fled before her. The fortunes of Charles the Seventh were retrieved. The fourteenth of July, 1429, having assisted at the ceremony of his coronation, she exclaimed, when it was over, "Now I shall not regret to die!" Having liberated her country, she wished to retire to her native village, to "serve her father and mother in keeping their sheep;" but to this the king would not consent. She was prevailed upon to continue her martial career.

9. Scarcely had a year elapsed since the glorious day on which she had delivered Orleans, when the courageous girl, having remained to the very last while the French were retreating from the siege of Compiegne, saw herself surrounded by a troop of Burgundian archers. By parrying their blows, and receding step by step as she fought, she at last